

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. announced today that he and Mitsubishi Motors USA Foundation will present an "unsung heroines" award to Laura and Sheila Braxton at 10:00 AM on Monday, April 12, at A Little Bit of Heaven. The shelter is located at 11321 South Wentworth Street in Chicago.

Each year, four Members of Congress are invited by Mitsubishi Motors to present the award to women who have given their time and energy to improve the lives of others. Congressman Jackson nominated Laura and Sheila Braxton, a mother-daughter team, for their tireless efforts to aid the homeless.

As founder and director of A Little Bit of Heaven, Laura Braxton envisioned a shelter that provided more than just a bed for the night. She has worked selflessly to provide the homeless with a clean, safe and supportive environment to help them get back on their feet.

Sheila Braxton, who serves as the Coordinator of Program Services, has expanded the shelter's services to include job training, medical and psychological guidance, and assistance in securing affordable permanent housing for its residents.

Jackson stated that he nominated the Braxtons for the award because he was particularly impressed with their dedication to preserving or restoring the dignity of the residents. Sheila is a full-time resident of the shelter, making it a "true home" for her and the residents.

Jackson commented, "As a Member of Congress, I am committed to working diligently to secure high quality, affordable housing for all Americans. However, I understand that this goal cannot be accomplished overnight. In the meantime, I am grateful that people like the Braxtons are committed to improving the lives of less fortunate individuals."